

Editor's Note

This issue of the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy (JGPT)* marks my first in the role of Editor. As a member of the Section on Geriatrics for over 20 years, I have seen our Journal develop into a dependable source of current and clinically relevant evidence to guide physical therapy examination and interventions for older adults. I am honored that the Section, represented by the Editor's Search Committee, is willing to invest in my developing skills as Editor, and I take the responsibility of sustaining and building upon the Journal's quality and success very seriously.

I come into this position on the broad and capable shoulders of those who have previously served as your Editors, and have some very impressive steps to follow! Richard Bohannon, PT, EdD, NCS, FAPTA whose extraordinary skills as researcher, writer, and Editor over the last 5 years have shaped the journal into a well-respected international publication, deserves more acclamation for the service he has provided to us as Editor than these few words can possibly express. I am especially thankful for his incredible organization and graciousness during the transition process, and that he is willing to continue to serve as a member of the Editorial Board. I must also credit Dr Bohannon as a catalyst for my early writing, willing to shape and mentor a novice graduate student/researcher who was terrified of the process of writing and submitting a manuscript for peer review. I hope that he will continue to find the outcomes of his investments, in the journal and in me (as a representative of the many he has mentored), to be both fruitful and positive!

The articles in this issue share a conceptual thread that considers postural control, falls risk assessment and prevention, and the aftermath of fall-related injury in older adults. While not assembled by design, this group of articles illustrate that falls and fall related injury continue to be a significant issue in clinical practice. Thompson et al provide information about the reliability and validity of reaching tests as potential indicators of anticipatory postural control. Johnson et al evaluate the impact of stretching interventions on ankle dorsiflexion range of motion, which if limited, reduces effectiveness of postural reactions. Konishi et al examine 'gamma loop' function of the quadriceps in elders hospitalized after an injurious fall. Hakim et al assess the efficacy of 2 strategies for falls-risk education provided at senior centers. Hardage et al describe the development of a scale to assess older adults' willingness to sustain exercise after discharge from physical therapy. Zeneker and Bemis-Dougherty's systematic review of the literature on weighted exercise on bone mineral density in postmenopausal women, who are at risk of sustaining injury should a fall occur. Happy reading to all!

As this issue of the Journal goes to press, the *JGPT's* Editorial Board will be meeting at APTA headquarters in Alexandria for a strategic planning session meant to take stock and make plans for the Journal over the next 3 to 5 years. We are poised to grow in several important ways: the number and quality of manuscripts being submitted for review is increasing, such that we may soon be able to move toward 4 issues per year. Rebecca Craik, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Editor of the *Journal of Physical Therapy*, has gathered Editors of Section journals into a working group with the common goal of improving the quality and efficiency of each of our publications. With the development of more Clinical Residencies in Geriatrics, there is opportunity to support the clinical scholarship on residents as they prepare evidence-based case reports that would be useful to the community of geriatric rehabilitation professionals. We are exploring the option to institute a periodic 'focused' issue of the journal, perhaps beginning with the wonderful work of the Section's Task Force on Exercise. Suggestions from you, as providers and consumers of the 'evidence' to guide physical therapy practice would be more than welcome! If you see a need that the journal might be able to fill, or feel strongly about a direction that the journal should consider taking, please share your thoughts at lusardim@sacredheart.edu!

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